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Dear editor,

With pleasure did we read the article by Tan and colleagues with assessment of diabetic foot disease guidelines (1). We commend the authors on the thorough analysis and useful considerations to help improve future guidelines in this field.

As editorial board of the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF), we were of course particularly interested in this independent analysis of our guidelines. The first version of the IWGDF guidelines was published in 1999, and they have been updated every four years since. With each update, we also aimed to improve its methodological rigour. We were glad to see our efforts rewarded with high overall scores.

However, Tan and colleagues did not assess our most recent guidelines. They searched the literature on May 31, 2019, and state that institutional websites were searched for updates. Unfortunately, they have missed ours, with our 2019 update published both online (at www.iwgdfguidelines.org) and offline (at the International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot) on May 25, 2019.

In this update, we specifically aimed to improve on AGREE domains 3 (rigour of development) and 6 (editorial independence). For example, considerations underlying recommendations have been made more explicit, external review was extended and better described, and extensive conflict of interest statements have been made publicly available on our website.

We think it is helpful for readers of this journal to be aware of this most recent update of the IWGDF guidelines. We have already started the process towards our 2023 update, and we will take the assessments by Tan and colleagues on board to continue improving our guidelines.

(1) Tan MKH, Goodall R, Hughes W, et al. A Methodological Assessment of Diabetic Foot Syndrome Clinical Practice Guidelines. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg 2020 Jul 4.

